

Remarks/Arguments

The present amendment is made in response to the final Office Action dated September 11, 2006, and identified as Paper No. 20060902.

In the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,834,334 to Robbins ("*Robins*"). Claims 4 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Robins* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,858 to Takemura ("*Takemura*").

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview of November 9, 2006, and for agreeing to consider the present after-final reply.

As explained in the November 9, 2006 telephone conference, claim 1 recites at least two express claim limitations that are not found in *Robins*. First, claim 1 requires a board panel "including at least one locking mechanism disposed on said trim and configured to attach to another board panel." As described in the Specification at Paragraph [0025], and as seen in Fig. 4, the locking mechanism may be used to interconnect a series of stacked panels together. As explained during the telephone conference, Fig. 4 does not disclose panels that pivot relative to each other (the only pivoting elements of the present invention are described hereinafter with respect to the structure of the support members of the base station that may be used for stacking multiple panels). The cited art fails to describe a system where multiple panels may be successively interconnected over each other (*i.e.*, not pivotally connected to each other, but placed in an overlying relationship).

Applicant has amended independent claim 13, which is directed toward a panel, to include the locking mechanism that is not disclosed from the prior art.

Second, claim 1 recites a base station having first and second support members and first and second cross members, wherein the “second cross member rotatably attaches to said first support member and said second support member.” As seen in Fig. 5 and described in the Specification at Paragraph [0025], the bottom (second) cross member may be pivoted to move arms 46 and 48 into a vertical position for shipping or storage. The cited art fails to disclose the claimed rotatable cross member (or a cross member having “at least one arm” as further recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 21 also recites the rotatable cross member that is not disclosed in the prior art.

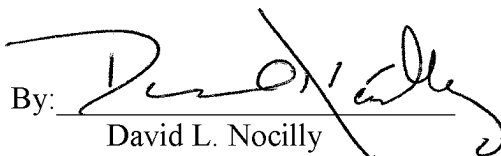
With regard to the remaining claim not discussed above, they depend from allowable claims and are therefore also allowable.

In view of the fact that the cited art does not disclose all of the limitations of the originally presented claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the holding of finality be withdrawn should further prosecution on the merits be required.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner’s reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application is believed to be in order. If the Examiner believes a phone conference with Applicant’s attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, please contact the undersigned at (315) 218-8530.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 10, 2006

By: 
David L. Nocilly
Reg. No. 48,259

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC

Reply to Final Office Action dated September 11, 2006
Application Serial No. 10/759,540
Amendment dated November 10, 2006

One Lincoln Center
Syracuse, New York 13202-8530
(315)218-8515.